

**TOWN OF DANDRIDGE, TENNESSEE  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
Regular Meeting  
13 August 2024**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. The Dandridge Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) met in a regular session in Dandridge, Tennessee on Tuesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.
- B. Vice-Mayor TODD KESTERSON was present and presiding and called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL**

- A. A roll call of the BMA was conducted with the following members responding:
- Mayor GEORGE GANTTE
  - Vice-Mayor TODD KESTERSON
  - Alderman JESSICA ELDER
  - Alderman MARIANNE REESE
  - Alderman MIKE CHAMBERS
  - Alderman JEFF DEPEW

ABSENT: Alderman MIKE NELSON

- B. A quorum being present, the following business was conducted and entered on the record:

**III. PUBLIC HEARING**

- Special Occasion Beer Permit Application, Chris Umberger, Scots-Irish Festival, Downtown Dandridge

*No Comments*

- **Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 24/25-02** Adopting the Certified Tax Rate for the Town of Dandridge, Tennessee.

*No Comments*

- **Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 24/25-03** Revising the Levying of A Privilege Tax Upon the Occupancy In Any Hotel or Motel or Any Place In Which Rooms, Lodging, or Accommodations Are Furnished To Transients For Consideration

*No Comments*

**IV. READING OF THE MINUTES**

It came on a motion by Alderman CHAMBERS, seconded by Alderman REESE, to approve the Regular Session minutes of the July 9, 2024, meeting as written.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

**V. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS**

*Aurora Pulliam – speaking on the new homes being built at the top of W. Main Street. Thought it was approved for a 3-home subdivision, but 3 townhomes would be 6 residences. The sidewalks have been destroyed. Parking will have cars right on the street. New houses at the top of circle drive were approved to have historical architecture and be similar to homes in the historic district, concerned with how we do business here. Who is supposed to enforce the codes?*

**VI. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, REMONSTRANCES, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None Presented

**VII. BUSINESS PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR**

*Mayor Gantte – thanks the body and members of the town for the prayers throughout the process of his health situation and heart surgery.*

**VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE TOWN RECORDER**

<u>Bank Balance:</u>	<u>BMA Acct:</u>	\$5,233,525.55	<u>DVFD Balance:</u>	\$ 257,488.14
	<u>Drug Fund Balance:</u>	\$ 23,249.42	<u>DWMF Balance:</u>	\$3,534,709.79

**IX. PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

- **Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 24/25-02** Adopting the Certified Tax Rate for the Town of Dandridge, Tennessee.

*Town Administrator Shockley – during the budget process we did not have a certified tax rate and we passed the budget without one with language that we would adopt the certified tax rate once the state accessed the value. .5813 is the state certified tax rate for the Town of Dandridge, lower than the current tax rate of .905.*

It came on a motion by Mayor GANTTE, seconded by Alderman REESE, to approve Ordinance No. 24/25-02 on second and final reading.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Mayor Gantte	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- **Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 24/25-03** Revising the Levying of A Privilege Tax Upon the Occupancy In Any Hotel or Motel or Any Place In Which Rooms, Lodging, or Accommodations Are Furnished To Transients For Consideration

*Town Administrator Shockley – The state allows for 8% occupancy tax collection, with 4% going to the county. When the town voted for occupancy tax, there was a limit of 2% to be collected. We are eligible to collect the other 2% to make it 4% total collected.*

*Mayor Gantte – would like everyone to know that the hotel/motel tax is what was used to pay for the dock. So many people use that dock and the taxpayers of the town didn't have to pay for it.*

It came on a motion by Alderman CHAMBERS, seconded by Alderman ELDER, to approve Ordinance No. 24/25-03 on second and final reading.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Mayor Gantte	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

None Presented

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

- Discussion/Consideration of Additional Funding for the Martha Dandridge Washington Garden Club (Requestion \$1,700 in additional funding)

*Town Administrator Shockley – Kim Ward spoke at the July BMA meeting and asked for additional funding for the garden club. In January, we asked non-profits to present funding requests and they presented their budget during this process.*

*Kim Ward (Garden Club) – Thanks Donald and the city crew for the quick cleanup of the tree in the graveyard. Donations from the donation box will go towards making walking tour brochures for the graveyard.*

It came on a motion by Mayor GANTTE, seconded by Alderman DEPEW, to approve the additional \$1,700 funding request for the Garden Club.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Mayor Gante	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Discussion/Consideration of Additional Funding for Merriment on Main

*Town Administrator Shockley – Last year we gave \$1,800. We budget \$2,500 in this line item and \$900 goes toward the Christmas tree and around \$1,000 towards town decorations.*

*Chrissy Depew – Merriment on Main will start the Saturday after Thanksgiving which is also small business day. Have things planned every Saturday through the Christmas Parade. Funding doesn't support the things we want to do.*

*Ice-Skating Rink – makes sense to purchase and not lease. Can add traffic to downtown and bring people to town for 6 weeks. Majority of the time it will be Friday-Sunday. Comes with 40 pairs of skates. Would like to put in the farmers market parking lot and there is significant parking behind the courthouse now. Total cost is \$14,664.58 for rink, skates, sharpener, cleaner. Win for the community, kids, families, tourism. Downtown businesses have to do well in the Christmas season or they won't make it. Suggest workers from the activity center to run it during the 6-week period. **Members of the board** bring up concerns about safety, restrooms, insurance, employee cost, cost of product. **Alderman Chambers** – Wants it to be budgeted for next year. **Mayor Gante** – thinks logistic wise it would work a whole lot better at the Field of Dreams.*

**Ice Skating Rink rolled over to next month**

It came on a motion by Alderman REESE, seconded by Alderman ELDER, to approve the additional \$1,800 funding request for Merriment on Main.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Mayor Gante	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Approval of Document Scanning Contract (Competitive Quote)

**Crosslin (123 15” Bankers Boxes and 307,500 scanned images) - \$17,297.49**  
**DEXDOX (123 15” Bankers Boxes and 307,500 scanned images) - \$21,973.95**  
**ITC (123 15” Bankers Boxes and 307,500 scanned images) - \$22,300**  
**RJ Young (123 15” Bankers Boxes and 307,500 scanned images) - \$36,900**

***Town Administrator Shockley** – Would recommend Crosslin. Budgeted \$30,000 for project. Storage fee of \$3,000/year. **Alderman Elder** – county uses cloud-based storage and recommends checking on the ITC system and ask more questions.*

*Rolled to next meeting pending more information from ITC.*

- Approval to Utilize Sourcewell Contract Pricing to Purchase a Toro Field Pro 6040 with Attachments (Smith Turf and Irrigation \$27,998.66) (FY24 Budgeted Item at \$28,000.00)

***Town Administrator Shockley** – This was budgeted for last fiscal year and we still haven’t obtained the unit. Smith Turf has offered a new product and given us a discount to get it under \$28,000 budget and is readily available.*

It came on a motion by Alderman CHAMBERS, seconded by Mayor GANTTE, to approve the purchase of a Toro Field Pro for \$27,998.66.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Mayor Gante	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Approval of Intersection Signalization Detection Upgrades at HWY 92 & Dumplin Valley Intersection (Progression Electric \$67,650.00)

***Town Administrator Shockley** – Detection equipment at intersection hasn’t operated properly in a while. New radar detection system will replace inoperable equipment. Intersection is currently running on a timer. MTAS traffic count from April showed 24,464 vehicles used intersection daily. We budgeted \$65,000 for the red light upgrade and Progression would qualify as sole-source and not have to be bid out.*

***Public Works Donald Whaley** – Cameras are obsolete now and everyone is moving away from them. Parts are hard to come by.*

It came on a motion by Mayor GANTTE, seconded by Alderman REESE, to approve the purchase of Intersection Signalization Upgrade for \$67,650.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Mayor Gante	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Approval of Surplus Property

**Town Administrator Shockley:**

*Parks and Rec - Ice Machine and set of 4 tires*

*Public Works – 2004 International 10-ton dump truck with snow plow and spreader, Rear-load trash truck, 10-ton air jack.*

**Gordon Hall Elected Constable** – Police Chief Williams wants to surplus one of the Crown Vics to the newly elected constable. Takes office at the end of the month.

It came on a motion by Alderman REESE, seconded by Mayor GANTTE to suspend Robert’s Rules of Order to add an agenda item approving surplus of Police Crown Vic to newly elected Constable Gordon Hall before he takes office.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Mayor Gantte	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

It came on a motion by Alderman CHAMBERS, seconded by Alderman REESE to surplus 1 2001 Crown Vic for the purpose of the constable supplying safety to District 1 and District 2.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Mayor Gantte	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

It came on a motion by Alderman ELDER, seconded by Mayor GANTTE to approve the surplus of property

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Mayor Gantte	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Discussion/Consideration of Noise Ordinance Resolution Revision to Implement Allowed Maximum Levels in Zoning

**Town Administrator Shockley** – Planner suggested zoning regulations for noise concerns and not specific businesses. Chart shows acceptable decibel levels based on time of day.

**Building Inspector Reneau** – Only noise regulations we have now is amplified music. 50 ft from the source the max is 85 decibels. Police department would enforce.

- Discussion of Animal Control Agreement Between the Town of Dandridge and Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office

**Town Administrator Shockley** – In discussion with Chief Williams, there are some incidents when we haven’t been able to get help. Wants to make the board aware of the issues (since we help fund) as they haven’t found anyone to fill the position

- Retain/Replace Appointed Personnel (Town Judge & Town Attorney)

**Town Judge** Rebecca Slone  
**Town Attorney** Jeff Greene

It came on a motion by Mayor GANTTE, seconded by Alderman DEPEW to reappoint both the town judge and town attorney for another year.

## **XII. DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES**

- Parks and Recreation Director - James Baker (Shockley)
  - Thanks board for the approval of the Toro
  - 228 Summer basketball league participants
  - July 22 Toy Show was well attended
  - Home and Garden show was well attended last weekend
  - Broncos first home game will be September 7
  - Fall ball signups for South-Jefferson in early August went well
  - Two shopping expos coming up
  - Chocolate festival will take place in the fall
- Codes Enforcement/Building Inspector - Terry Reneau
  - Inspections going good
  - A lot of maintenance letters going out
  - Firehouse Subs wants to be open in September
  - School lofts project wants to do gazebo/picnic area...things are going well
  - Short-term rentals – 1 delinquent, everybody else has come into compliance.
  - Residential permits are down and commercial is up (county-wide)
- Dandridge Water Management Facility Superintendent - Tana Benson
  - Set 11 water taps and 1 sewer tap
  - CDBG project is close to going online
- Public Works Director - Donald Whaley
  - Checks sidewalks before, during, after construction
  - Crosswalks – post office (against because of visibility); library (visibility from bridge)
  - Just finished paving project on W. Dumplin Valley
- Fire – Andy Riley
  - Equipment Grant – \$74,960 (100% Funded)
  - Firehouse Subs Grant - \$18,000
  - Tennessee Highway Safety Grant
  - Incident involving command vehicle and boat – people involved are very remorseful and in good health. Could have been a lot worse
  - Yearly fireworks fundraiser netted \$13,500
  - Won Firehouse Subs Grant of \$18,615 which will go towards 5 sets of turnout gear
- Town Administrator Shockley
  - Keep Alderman Nelson in prayers with medical incident this week
  - Garden Club – discussion about the tree in the Farrar’s memory
  - Flock – received letter of approval from AEC
  - TVA – working on plan for bathrooms downtown
  - TWRA – construction will resume in November on upper-level parking lot and free launch.
  - TDOT – paving is ongoing on 92. Broken loop at Hart Rd. Paving is scheduled for HWY 92 hopefully starting July 15
  - FEMA – grant from last August storm has been closed out (\$59,984.08)
  - LPRF approval letter coming – playground grant
  - Chief Carson Williams will be retiring at the end of the year. Starting the process to find his replacement.
  - Tomorrow at 11:00am is the Mountain Motorcoach groundbreaking

**XIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

*Mayor Gantte* – take time to look at the track at the Field of Dreams. Probably 8-12 cracks that are getting pretty bad. May look at hospital grant next year to help fund improvement.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

It came on a motion by Alderman ELDER, seconded by Alderman CHAMBERS, that the meeting of August 13, 2024, be adjourned.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

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Todd Kesterson, Vice-Mayor

ATTEST:

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Zach Reese, Town Recorder

MINUTES-BMA-081324